

Spring 2021

PHYS 321-002: Astronomy and Astrophysics II

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PHYS321002-Astronomy and Astrophysics II

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Phys 321: Astronomy & Astrophysics II (Spring 2021)

This course will be delivered through the Synchronous Online mode. We will use WebEx (see [this link for tutorials \(https://ist.njit.edu/webex\)](#)) to deliver virtual lectures and the Canvas Learning Management System (see [this link for a student orientation](#)) to conduct the lecture slides, assignments, and lecture recordings. To access Canvas, log on at [canvas.njit.edu \(http://canvas.njit.edu/\)](#) using your NJIT UCID and password.

Course Information

Time, Location: 02:30 pm - 03:50 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays; **Synchronous Online** via WebEx

Office Hour: Thursdays at 11 am–Noon or by appointment.

Instructor: Prof. Bin Chen.

Textbook: **Introduction to Modern Astrophysics (2nd Edition) by Carroll & Ostlie.** This is the same textbook used by Phys 321 (Astronomy & Astrophysics II). For this course, we will be covering **Chapters 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15–18, 24–30 in the textbook.**

Homework Assignments

The homework assignments will be handed out each week. They are **typically** due each Thursday but **pay attention to the specific due dates posted with each assignment.** They may require you to submit a text response or upload a file (preferably in pdf, but doc, docx, or pages also accepted), so check the assignment early and be prepared.

late submissions for homework assignments are allowed. But they will only receive **50% of the original points**. All the late submissions **need to be submitted prior to the last class** to receive any credits.

Online Exams

There will be **two in-class exams** during the semester, and **one final exam** during the exam week. All the exams will be carried out **synchronously online via Canvas and monitored through WebEx** (see information below). **Makeup exams** will only be allowed **under extraordinary circumstances** such as severe illness. Students must contact the professor **at least 24 hours** in advance to make alternative plans for taking the exam and must present proof that clearly states the reason AND date.

NJIT policy requires that all midterm and final exams must be proctored, regardless of delivery mode, in order to increase academic integrity. Note that this does not apply to essay or authentic based assessments. Effective beginning Fall semester 2019, students registered for a fully online course section (e.g., online or Hyflex mode) must be given the option to take their exam in a completely online format, with appropriate proctoring.

In this course you will be required to use the following proctoring method to ensure academic integrity for exams. Please see NJIT's response to questions about online proctoring **at this link** (<https://www5.njit.edu/provost/response-questions-about-online-proctoring/>). See below for more information about how exams will be proctored in this course.

Your instructor will schedule a Webex exam session and share the meeting information with you ahead of time (note, **not the same as our default lecture Webex link**). The exam on Canvas will be password-protected. You can connect to the Webex session with either your phone or computer. You can find links to download the mobile app from the App Store or Google Play Store at the bottom of njit.webex.com (njit.webex.com).

When your instructor is ready to start the exam, they will provide the exam password in the meeting so all students who have their camera correctly set up can begin the Canvas quiz. Your instructor will then watch you, via the web camera, as you take the exam. Students are expected to remain connected to the Webex session until their exam is submitted. The session is also recorded for future references.

In order to use Webex for proctored exams, you will need the following:

- High-speed internet connection
- Webcam (internal or external) and/or smartphone with a camera
- The process for connecting to Webex will be similar to the way you connect for a class. **Note the Webex links for exams will be different from the ones used for lectures.**

Tips for ensuring a smooth experience while using Webex:

- Connect to your Webex session before class starts.
- Log into Canvas before connecting to Webex.

Grades

Your grade will be based on your homework assignment scores (25%), two in-class common exams (30%), attendance and class participation (15%), and final exam (30%).

Here are the approximate weights to be used for calculating the final grade and the final grade scale:

30% for the two in-class exams	85% and more	A
30% for the final exam	80% - 84.99%	B+
25% for the total homework/assignment grade	70% - 79.99%	B
5% for attendance/class participation	65% - 69.99%	C+
10% for final presentation	55% - 64.99%	C
	50% - 54.99%	D
	49.99% and less	F

Grades are not negotiable. A score of 84.99% is a B+, not an A

Statement on academic integrity

Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the [University Policy on Academic Integrity](https://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf) (<https://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>).

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing, or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu (<mailto:%20dos@njit.edu>).

Other Information

Questions or problems regarding using Webex/Canvas for the online course can be submitted via web form by going to: <https://servicedesk.njit.edu> (<https://servicedesk.njit.edu>) and clicking on the "Report your issue online" link. You may also call the IST Service Desk with any questions at 973-596-2900.
